

Mont. 17-51-11
John and Annie Harper House (Site)
Poolesville vicinity, Jerusalem community
Private

Poss. mid 19th century

This log house contained one room down and one up, was warmed by a large fireplace, and may have been built as a slave house. Later it became the home of a black landowning family.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC John and Annie Harper Family House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER North side of Jerusalem Church Rd.

CITY, TOWN
Poolesville (Jerusalem)☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Md. STATE

COUNTY
Montgomery**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	No	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME B.P. and P. Hawkins

Forest

STREET & NUMBER

20311 Bucklodge Rd.

Telephone #: 972-0523

CITY, TOWN

Boys

☐ VICINITY OFSTATE, zip code
Maryland 20720**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Registry of Deeds

Liber #: 3856

Folio #: 277

STREET & NUMBER

County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Rockville,

STATE

Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

 DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This log house stood on the north side of Jerusalem Church Road, on parcle CT33 P. 317, of today's county property map. The house has since been torn down, and nothing remains but some rubble. According to Joe Harper who was raised in the Jonesville community nearby and to Howard Lyles, the community informant from Jerusalem, this log house had one room down and one up. It resembled the house of Charles Frank Dorsey, which remains standing, except that this house was heated by a fireplace instead of a wood stove. This is the only log house in the community that had a fireplace instead of a stove, suggesting that the house may be older than the others. Certainly older than the date of purchase of the property by John Harper, 1909.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

M:17-51-11

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

Poss. mid 19th century or *Black History*

SPECIFIC DATES *Poss. 1880's or 1890's* BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to deed, 218/1, John Harper purchased this tract of 1 acre, 17 sp. perches from William Wallace Poole, Carrie W.O. Poole his wife, and Anna Dickerson Poole in 1909.

It was a part of the much larger tract of land known as "Poole's Right" and was probably a part of the Poole estate on the east side of Rt. 109.

Though the deed shows that Harper purchased this property in 1909, oral history indicates that his ownership was previous to that. According to Joe Harper, the oral informant, William Wallace Poole had told him that John Harper had purchased a considerable amount of property from him on the east and west sides of Jeusalem Church Rd. with money that Harper had saved from splitting rails. The deed, however, was not recorded. This was in the late 1800's or early 1900's before Joe Harper's time. John Harper could not pay the taxes since he was short on cash and had been splitting rails for Poole to continue his payments on the property. So Poole suggested to Harper that he sell off the property, which Harper did. This resulted in the purchase of property by Charles and Josephine McPherson in 1913, George and Oral Lyles in 1915 and Lizzie Nichols in 1913. The property was sold in the name of the Poole family, and it is not known who received the money from the land sales, whether Poole or Harper. John Harper kept this small tract of approximately 1 acre for himself.

Since there are no written records to substantiate this, the story of William Wallace Poole cannot be proved, and all informants involved in it have passed on. It is possible, however, especially since Poole himself told the story. Its importance, regardless of its accuracy, is that it indicates that Harper was living here before 1909, and that the house is probably older than the date of the deed. It also indicates the strong desire of John Harper, born in 1840 during slavery, and of other Black men and women like him, to buy land and establish a base of autonomy. A large obstacle, however, was not just to acquire the land, but to make sufficient money within the limited job opportunities that wider society allowed for Black people in order to protect and hold on to that land.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 1) Land Records, County Courthouse, Rockville, Md.
- 2) Oral interviews, (not taped), with Joe Harper and Howard Lyles, September - October 1978 by George McDaniel

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel, Surveyor

Wesley Stubbs, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

Sept. 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

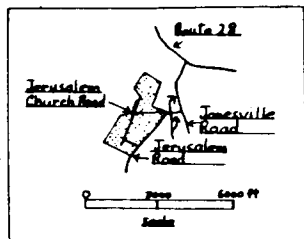
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: ~~Maryland Historical Trust~~ SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS
~~The Shaw House, 21 State Circle~~ Box 87, Stronghold
~~Annapolis, Maryland 21401~~ Dickerson, Md. 20753
~~(301) 267-1438~~ (301) 926-4510

MAP 4
JERUSALEM COMMUNITY,
c. 1900-1925

Source
Steven Doolittle
Sugarloaf Regional Trails

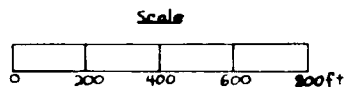
Oral Informants
Joshua Hamilton
Evelyn Harper
Joseph Harper
Howard Lyles
Ora Lyles
Charles Moore
Margaret Moore
William Moore
Isabel Owens
George Robinson
Francis Thompson



Jerusalem Church Road

Jerusalem Road

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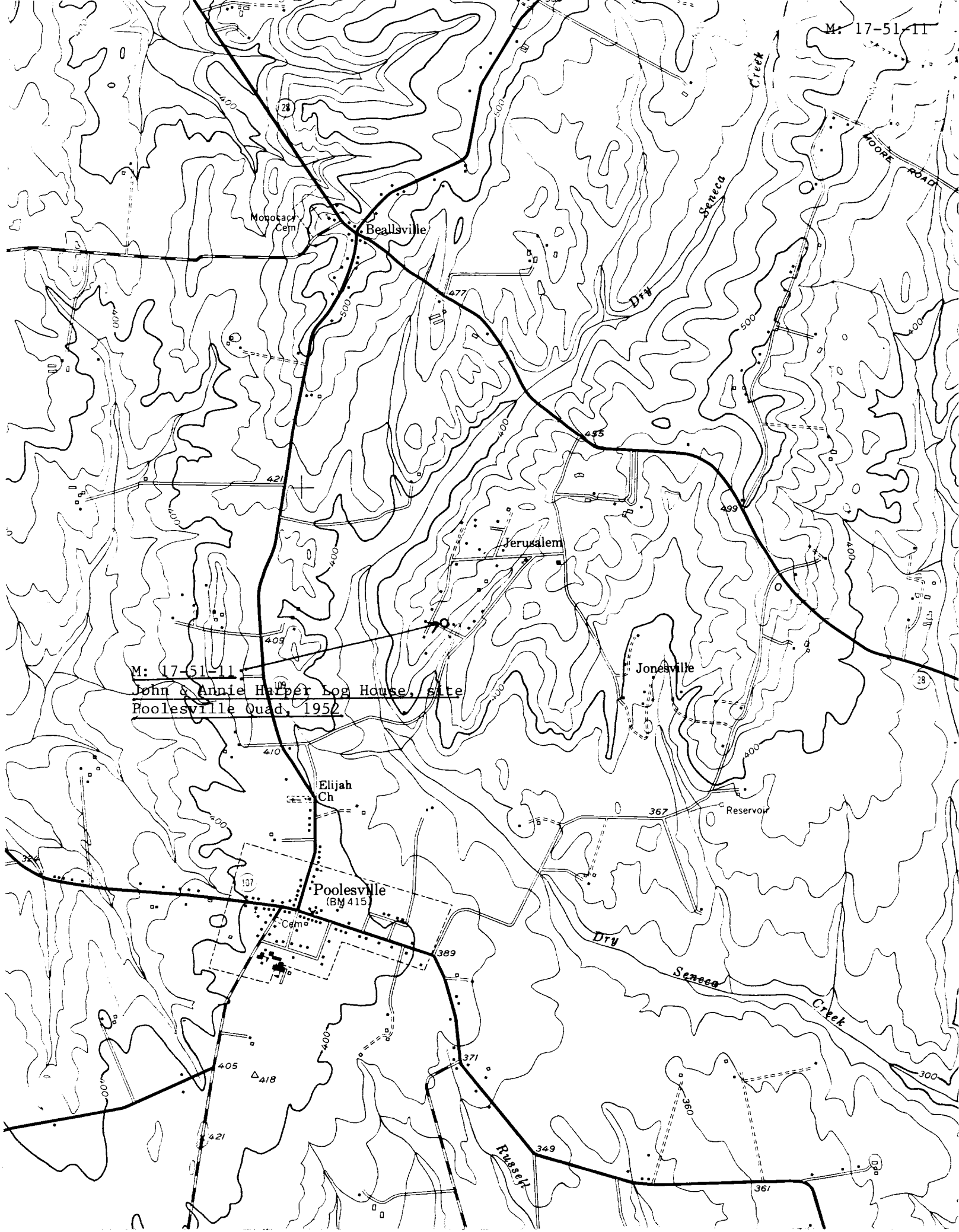


CHURCH	
CEMETERY	
JUDGE	
COMMUNITY CENTER	
STORE	
POST OFFICE	
SCHOOL	
DWELLING	
PRIVY	
STABLE	
MEAT HOUSE	
HEN HOUSE	
MILK HOUSE	
CORN/FEED HOUSE	
PIG PEN	
GARDEN	
PASTURE	
CORNFIELD	
HAY FIELD	
ORCHARD	
FOREST	
THICKET	
WELL	
SPRING	
STREAM	
POND	
PARCEL BOUNDARY	
FENCED PARCEL BDY.	
FENCE	
DIRT ROAD	
LANE	
PATH	
STREAM FLOW	

DWELLINGS AND OUTBUILDINGS NOT DRAWN TO SCALE
HSTD. = HOMESTEAD PROP. = PROPERTY

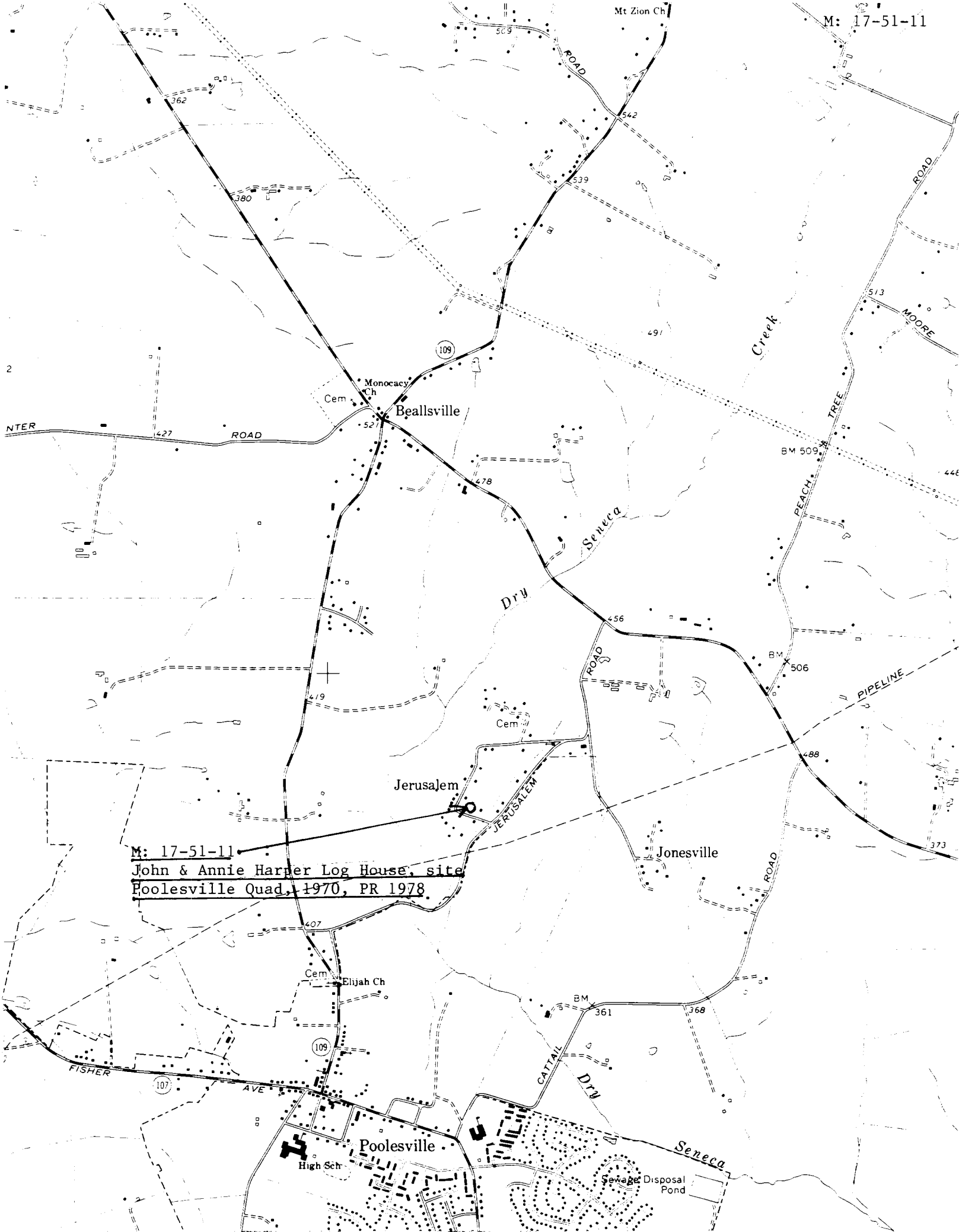
Key

1. WILLIAM ROBINSON ESTD.	3.22 AC.
2. SARAH JOHNSON ESTD.	2.00 AC.
3. MILTON HARPER ESTD.	1.00 AC.
4. WILLIAM LYLES ESTD.	2.00 AC.
5. SUSAN PROCTOR ESTD.	1.00 AC.
6. FRANK DORSEY ESTD.	2.90 AC.
7. GEORGE DORSEY ESTD.	4.75 AC.
8a. 1st CLARICE HOME (log)	4.40 AC.
b. 2nd CLARICE HOME (frame)	
9. JERUSALEM PARSONAGE	1.50 AC.
10. JERUSALEM CHURCH	0.50 AC.
11. WILLIAM DORSEY ESTD.	2.00 AC.
12. JAMES DORSEY ESTD.	3.00 AC.
13a. WILLIAM MOORE ESTD.	7.00 AC.
b. BARTLEY MOORE ESTD.	
14. DAVID COPELAND ESTD.	2.00 AC.
15. ROBERT WILLIAMS ESTD.	3.75 AC.
16. WALLACE HAMILTON ESTD.	2.50 AC.
17. DENNIS HAMILTON ESTD.	9.66 AC.
18. CHARLES McPHERSON ESTD.	11.00 AC.
19. LEZZIE GRIMES ESTD.	4.00 AC.
20. GEORGE LYLES ESTD.	3.00 AC.
21. JOHN HARPER ESTD.	1.00 AC.
22. JOHN HALLMAN ESTD.	10.00 AC.



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John & Annie Harper Log House, site
Poolesville Quad, 1952



M: 17-51-11
John & Annie Harper Log House, site
Poolesville Quad, 1970, PR 1978